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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**CRACK COCAINE DEALER SENTENCED
TO MORE THAN 23 YEARS**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that LESLIE HARDIMAN, 38, Terre Haute, Indiana, was sentenced to 280 months imprisonment yesterday by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his conviction at trial March 22, 2006 for conspiracy to distribute cocaine base. This case was the result of a month long investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Vigo County Drug Task Force, Vincennes Police Department, and Terre Haute Police Department..

On December 16, 2005, federal and state law enforcement agencies conducted a controlled purchase of two ounces of crack cocaine from LESLIE HARDIMAN and his brother, Willie Hardiman. The Terre Haute Police Department attempted to stop the vehicle driven by the Hardiman brothers immediately before the scheduled drug transaction. Following a chase

with law enforcement, Willie Hardiman fled the vehicle and threw the crack cocaine into a bush. Willie Hardiman was previously sentenced to 292 months imprisonment.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed 10 years supervised release following HARDIMAN's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, HARDIMAN is subject to random urinalysis and random searches of his person, vehicle, and residence.

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